

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 8, 1978

(SALT TWO-1777)

SEmenov Statement, June 8, 1978

IN THE COURSE OF THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS THE USSR DELEGATION HAS REPEATEDLY SET FORTH THE SOVIET SIDE'S APPROACH TO TWO OF THE STILL UNAGREED PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE IX OF THE DRAFT TREATY, CONCERNING A BAN ON CERTAIN NEW TYPES OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

THESE ARE THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE IX, SUBPARS. (D) AND (E). I HAVE THE FOLLOWING TO ADD.

CONCERNING ARTICLE IX, SUBPAR. (D), OF THE DRAFT TREATY, WHERE REFERENCE IS MADE TO CRUISE MISSILES OF INTERCONTINENTAL RANGE. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE UPPER LIMIT ON CRUISE MISSILE RANGE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE

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ALREADY AGREED PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY. AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THAT ARTICLE, EACH PARTY UNDERTAKES NOT TO FLIGHT-TEST OR DEPLOY CRUISE MISSILES WITH A RANGE IN EXCESS OF 2,500 KILOMETERS. THIS IS STRICTLY IN ACCORD WITH THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN OUR STATES EARLIER.

TO INTRODUCE INTO THE TEXT OF THE TREATY A PROVISION SPECIFYING A DIFFERENT, HIGHER LIMIT FOR CRUISE MISSILE RANGE WOULD IN FACT MEAN THAT IN THE COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD, IN PARTICULAR, CONCERN THE QUESTIONS INCLUDED IN THE PROTOCOL, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE PERMITTED MAXIMUM CRUISE MISSILE RANGE AS COMPARED TO THE UPPER LIMIT OF 2,500 KILOMETERS BEING ESTABLISHED FOR THREE YEARS. THIS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH, AS AGREED BETWEEN THE SIDES, WILL BE AIMED AT REACHING AGREEMENT ON FURTHER MEASURES TO LIMIT AND REDUCE STRATEGIC ARMS.

FURTHERMORE, RETENTION OF THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE IX, SUBPAR. (D), OF THE DRAFT TREATY, ACTUALLY WOULD PREDETERMINE THE SPECIFIC CONTENT OF SUBSEQUENT UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE ISSUES IN THE PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY; THIS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SIDES IN THIS AREA.

IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III OF THE PROTOCOL, THE PROVISION UNDER ARTICLE IX, SUBPAR. (D), OF THE DRAFT TREATY MUST BE DELETED.

CONCERNING ARTICLE IX, SUBPAR. (E), OF THE DRAFT
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TREATY--ON BANNING CRUISE MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE WARHEADS. THIS SOVIET PROPOSAL IS CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT POLICY ADOPTED BY THE SIDES AT THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS--TO BLOCK THE POTENTIAL FOR A POSSIBLE RACE IN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. IN THIS CASE, WE ARE SPEAKING OF A NEW, FORMERLY NON-EXISTENT CHANNEL WHICH MIGHT BECOME CONCEIVABLE; CRUISE MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE WARHEADS COULD BECOME SUCH A CHANNEL. ASSUMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS,EQUAL FOR BOTH SIDES,ON SUBPARAGRAPH (E) CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS AND STABILITY OF THE DOCUMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, THE U.S. DELEGATION HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL AND CONSIDERATIONS OF THE SOVIET SIDE WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLE IX, SUBPARS. (D) AND (E), OF THE DRAFT TREATY ARE BEING STUDIED. BUT THINGS HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND THAT.

THE ABSENCE OF A POSITIVE REACTION ON THE AFOREMENTIONED ISSUES SEEMS INCOMPREHENSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY THE U.S. SIDE

CONCERNING THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY OF THE NEW TREATY BEING PREPARED.
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